

settled by the Norwegians. These, he says, came into America by way of Iceland, Greenland, Estotiland and Norembega. Ages after the coming of the Norwegians, he asserts that the Danes, Swedes and other German nations sent out colonies to the New World. Grotius rejects the Tartar or Scythian origin of the Americans, as there is nothing similar in their customs and manners to those of the Indians. He insists chiefly on the fact that the Americans had no horses, while the Scythians not only had them, but could not do without them. In claiming that the first settlers of America were Norwegians, who came here by the way of Iceland and Greenland, Grotius fell into an anachronism which has been adopted by many careless writers and lecturers in our own day, but which a more faithful study of the early landmarks of history would correct. The learned historian, Angrimus Jonas, himself an Icelandic, affirms that Greenland was first discovered in 964. But Gomera and Herrera, two other reliable historians, inform us that the tribe called the Chichimeques, who had migrated from New Mexico and California, were settled on the Gulf of Mexico in 721; consequently North America was inhabited several ages before it was possible for the Norwegians to have arrived by way of the yet undiscovered Greenland. De Laet, who investigated the subject more thoroughly than Grotius, is of the opinion that the first human beings who arrived in America came from the Canaries and other islands near the coast of Africa, and that these migrations took place about 2,000 years ago.

Father Charlevoix, the historian of New France, whose noble work has been so well translated in our own day by that profound and indefatigable Indian scholar, Mr. John Gilmary Shea, expresses the opinion in one of his earlier writings that the Eastern and Western hemispheres adjoin each other

in that part of the world which lies to the northward of Asia. Certain animals, such as lions and tigers—which, he thinks, according to all appearances, have passed over from Tartary and Hircania into America—probably found their way to the New World by that direction.

Such are the various opinions of the earliest and most celebrated writers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries on the origin of the American Indians. Garcia, Acosta, Lescarbot, Brerewood, Grotius and De Laet, whose testimony I have briefly summarized, were all profound scholars, whose researches have given direction to the views of subsequent writers on the subject. But is not the mind unsatisfied with the distracting speculations of the learned, when we know that, for the most part, it is all speculation? Much more sensible is the conclusion deduced by Charlevoix from this mass of conflicting testimony. "If the question is asked," says he, "how the New World might have been peopled, nothing would seem easier to answer. It might have been peopled just as the other three quarters of the globe have been."

Now, Charlevoix is entirely right, for it is certain that the inhabitants of both hemispheres are the descendants of the same father. This common father of mankind received an express order from heaven to people the whole world, and accordingly, it has been peopled. Were the difficulties to be overcome any greater in passing over to America than they were in peopling the extremities of Asia, Africa and Europe, and the islands of the sea, which lie at a considerable distance from those continents? Certainly not. Navigation, which has been carried to such perfection during the past three or four centuries, might possibly have been more perfect in those first ages than at this day. At least, we can not doubt that it had then reached that degree of per-